

# Community Engagement E-News

Parkland College's Bimonthly E-Newsletter on All Things Service-Learning and Volunteerism

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**"What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."  
-Aristotle**

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## Welcome Parkland's New Volunteer Coordinator

Please join us in welcoming Parkland's new Volunteer Coordinator, Whitney Carr!

Whitney, an Illinois Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA, will be taking over for the former VISTA, Gabi Fisher, who is now pursuing a Master's degree in History at ISU.

Originally from Tennessee, Whitney is a first-year VISTA, and she recently completed a Master's degree in History at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS. She is looking forward to strengthening Parkland's engagement with our community through developing partnerships and service opportunities for our students, faculty and staff!

You can visit Whitney at her office in C-134 or contact her by phone.

## Visit Parkland's Center for Community Engagement (C-134)

Looking for a way to get involved in the community, or searching for ways to integrate service-learning and volunteering into your class, club, or curriculum? Come check out our resources in the *Center for Community Engagement*! Currently staffed by Parkland's Illinois Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA and Volunteer Coordinator, Whitney Carr, the Center for Community Engagement offers a wide array of services, including Project READ tutoring (more info below), a library of service-learning books, volunteer resources, and course development resources.

Stay tuned for our Open House in October (TBA)!

For more information about the Center for Community Engagement and how you can get involved, stop by our office (C-134) Monday-Friday.

## Volunteer & Activities Fair - Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm

Mark your calendars for the Fall semester's Volunteer & Activities Fair, set for Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11a.m. to 1p.m. in the Student Union. The Fair is a great way to network, meet local nonprofit and student organizations, and become involved in local volunteer opportunities. We had a great turnout last spring, so we're excited to invite you to stop by the Fair, tell your friends about it, or maybe bring your class by to visit with campus and community organizations.

For more information, or for a list of participating organizations, please contact Whitney.

## Online Resources

[Parkland College Service Learning Website](#)

[CU Volunteer Database](#)

[Service Learning Clearinghouse](#)

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## Join the Garden Hills Homework Club!

For the past eleven years, students, faculty, and staff of Parkland College have been working with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at an afterschool program called the Homework Club at Garden Hills Elementary. The Homework Club, a partnership between Parkland College and Champaign Unit 4 Schools, meets two days a week (Mondays and Wednesdays), from 3:00-4:00pm. We are currently recruiting members of the Parkland community to volunteer one or two days a week throughout the upcoming fall semester. Volunteers provide not only academic support to the Garden Hills kids, but also serve as important role models to at-risk youth. As a result of the success of previous semesters, our primary goal this term is to increase the number of Parkland College students working with Garden Hills students.

In 2017-2018, over 50 Parkland students and staff volunteered with the Homework Club, and we hope to have even more join us next term!

For more information about potentially connecting your class or club with the Garden Hills Homework Club this semester, please contact Brian Nudelman at [bnudelman@parkland.edu](mailto:bnudelman@parkland.edu) or Whitney Carr at 353-3302.

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## Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland College

The Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland is located in M-138 (please enter from the outside of the building), and is open every Wednesday from 11am-1pm, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 10:00am-Noon. Besides offering an incredible service for our students, the Pantry provides an excellent opportunity for service-learning on the Parkland campus. Check out [their website](#) for more information about the Wesley Food Pantry and the ways to volunteer with them.

Please contact [Brian Nudelman](#) or Whitney Carr for information on starting a service-learning component with the Pantry.

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## Project READ

Project READ, the Wesley Food Pantry, and the Center for Community Engagement--all at Parkland College--have teamed up to provide free tutoring for adults in reading, basic math, or ESL services on Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30pm in the new Parkland College Center for Community Engagement (C-134).

Project READ provides training for all tutors with a combination of in-person and online training to prepare for their service. Training dates and times, plus registration forms may be found at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C49A5A728A6FF2-tutor>.

Please contact the Project READ office at [ProjectREAD@parkland.edu](mailto:ProjectREAD@parkland.edu) or 217-353-2662 for more information. Project READ is funded by the Illinois State Library.

Please like the Project READ Facebook page! They post updates on training and tutor support here: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectREADatParkland/>